Product News

Stereomicroscope

The new **Carl Zeiss stereomicroscope Stemi 2000-CS** allows the user to view the sample whilst other observers view the procedure by video. Greenough type stereomicroscopes create their stereo effect by having separate light paths set at different angles, one for each eye. However, when video or photomicrography is being carried out most stereomicroscope systems remove light from one of the light paths within the body of the microscope, leaving only one viewing path. This can make it difficult to demonstrate a process to video viewers. The problem can be overcome with the Stemi 2000-CS, which splits light from the right hand viewing path 50:50 between the viewer and the camera port, whilst also adjusting the brightness in the left hand path to balance the light levels between the eyes. The equipment can be used with a range of accessories.

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Temperature cycler

The **RoboCycler® Infinity™ temperature cycler** from **Stratagene** is the newest addition to the Robocycler temperature cycler product line. The Robocycler Infinity cycler combines features and benefits of the standard RoboCycler temperature cycler with the added flexibility of interchangeable blocks. Unlike conventional temperature cyclers that have only one block for PCR denaturation, annealing and extension steps and must ramp a single block's temperature up and down, every RoboCycler temperature cycler features four programmable thermal blocks and a robotic arm that rapidly moves samples from one pre-equilibrated block to another. This allows a 30% reduction in sampling time. Another key feature of the RoboCycler system is a ± 0.1°C well-to-well temperature uniformity. Easily interchangeable blocks add versatility while an independent hot top assembly allows oil-free PCR amplifications.

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Electrophoresis monitoring

A new reagent that now enables the accurate determination of protein molecular weights between 10 kDa on a single gel has been developed by **Amersham Life Science**. The **Full Range Rainbow™** coloured protein molecular weight markers are visible during electrophoresis, enabling easy monitoring of experimental progress. The bands are also visible when transferred to blotting membranes, so the size estimation of unknown proteins is also straightforward. Developed using recombinant standard proteins, rather than naturally-sourced proteins, to ensure tighter bands, the molecular weight range ensures that a ladder of evenly spaced, discrete bands is obtained. Supplied in ready-to-load format, the 10 marker proteins are each labelled with a differently coloured dye, enabling simple visual identification. The markers provide sufficient material to run 50 mini gels, or 25 large gels.

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Affinity purification

A new, high-capacity biosensor cuvette for rapid affinity selection, purification and recovery of biomolecules is now available from **Affinity Sensors**. **CMD-Select cuvettes**, used with the IAsys Auto+ biosensor system, allow biomolecule selection based on specific binding to immobilized ligand from complex mixtures, including total bacterial extracts and cell culture media. The unique high surface area cuvette and ease of liquid handling allow the convenient elution of comparatively high levels (up to microgram amounts) of bound analyte. The purified analyte is therefore easily characterized by conventional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE) or by mass spectrometry (MS).

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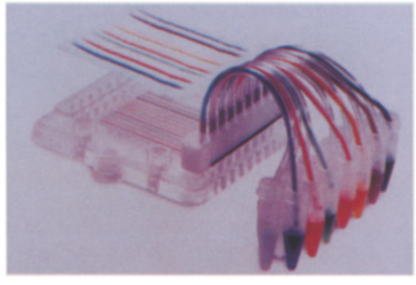
Gel eluter



The new **whole gel eluter** from **BioRad** harvests protein bands from cell extracts separated by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (PAGE). The electro-elution tools collect all the proteins from an entire uncut gel, placing the content of each band into a separate well for subsequent sequencing, assay or antibody production. The instrument is ideal for screening milligram amounts of protein mixtures in cellular assays or for characterising T-cell and antibody responses. Antigenic fractions are obtained in non-toxic form, making the assays fast and easy. The whole elution process takes 14–21 minutes on a 3mm thick gel.

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